



# **Overview on Emergency Communications: Partnering to Prepare and Respond to Emergencies and Disasters**

Federal Communications Commission  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

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## Emergency Communications



Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's  
Mission is:

“To Promote Safety of Life and Property Through  
the Use of wire and radio communications.”

*(Communications Act of 1934)*

## Emergency Communications



### PSHSB Structure

- Office of the Bureau Chief and Three Divisions
  - Policy
  - Public Communications Outreach & Operations
  - Communications Systems Analysis
- 24/7 Watch Command
- Public Safety Licensing Unit (Gettysburg)

# Emergency Communications



## PSHSB Priorities

- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Public Safety Communications
- Legislative Tasks
- Outreach



### Emergency Preparedness and Response

- Take an “All Hazards Approach” to Preparedness
- Act Under the National Response Framework and other Directives
- Coordinate with Our Government Partners, the Public Safety Community and the Communications Industry



# PSHSB Takes Lead Role for FCC in Disaster Response

## FCC Activities

- Activate In-House Senior-Level Task Force
- Grant Expedited Relief (Special Temporary Authority, Waivers)
- Contact Industry
- Deploy ESF-2 National and Field-Level Teams
- Conduct Site Surveys
- Provide Situational Awareness
- Analyze Communications Requests and Prepare Solutions
- Help Communications Industry Access Disaster Zone (w/ DHS)
- Provide Information to the Public



## Public Safety Communications

- Spectrum Management
  - 700 MHz Band
  - 800 MHz Rebanding
  - Digital Television Transition
- Wireless Enhanced 911 Service
- Emergency Alert System
- Advisory Committees

## Emergency Communications



### Spectrum Management – 700 MHz Band

- Create Nationwide Interoperable Broadband Network for Public Safety
- Establish Public Safety/Private Partnership
- Ensure that First Responders' Interests Are Represented
- Build Nationwide Network to Public Safety Specifications
- Roll-out of Next Generation Voice and Data Services



## Emergency Communications



### Spectrum Management – 800 MHz Rebanding

- 36-Month Transition ends June 26, 2008
- Accelerated Planning and Negotiation Timelines
- Rapid Resolution of Disputed Issues by Bureau
- Minimum Cost Order – Flexibility on Recoverable Costs that Further Rebanding Objectives
- Sprint Must Clear Spectrum when Public Safety Needs It
- Progress on International Border Issues

## Emergency Communications



### Spectrum Management – Digital Television Transition

- February 17, 2009 All Television Broadcasts to be Delivered in Digital Signal
- Analog Televisions Will No Longer Work
- American Public Must Convert to Ensure Continued Access to Emergency Alerts and Warnings
- Full-Court Press on Public Education and Awareness

# Emergency Communications



## Wireless Enhanced 911 Service

- New Caller Location Accuracy Requirement
- Annual Location Accuracy Benchmarks Set Over Next Five Years
- Basic Requirements Include Meeting Location Accuracy Measurements at:
  - “Economic Area” Level by 2008;
  - “Metropolitan Statistical Area” and “Rural Service Area” Levels by 2010; and
  - Public Safety Answering Point Level by the 2012 compliance deadline



## Emergency Alert System (EAS)

- Fully Digital Systems Key to Next Generation Overhaul
- Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) to Enable Rapid Transmission of Messages in Variety of Formats
- Working with Communications Industry and Community Leaders to Address Multilingual Messaging



## Advisory Committees

- Warning Alert and Response Network Act (WARN Act) – Commercial Wireless Alerts
- FCC/NTIA Joint Advisory Committee – Communications Capabilities and Needs of Emergency Medical Care and Public Health



## Public Safety Outreach

- Reach out to Public Safety Community, Government and Communications Industry
- Promote Priority Service Programs
- Serve as Resource and Information Clearinghouse
- Host Summits

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